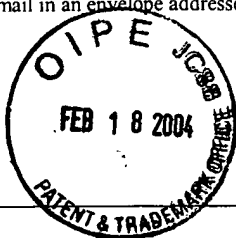


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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 021496-000410US

Commissioner for Patents
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On 2-10-04

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Edward Masinas

Edward Masinas

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RODNEY BRENNEMAN et al.

Application No.: 10/757,980

Filed: January 13, 2004

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS
FOR GUIDING AN ENDOSCOPE VIA
A RIGIDIZABLE WIRE GUIDE

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and
§1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

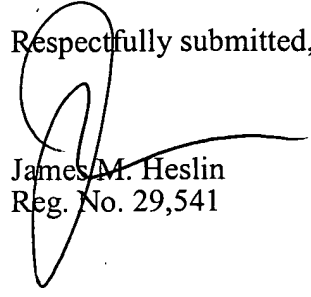
The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are being called to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement.

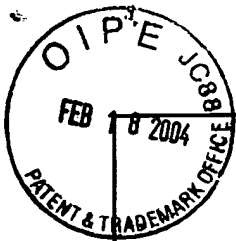
However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Heslin
Reg. No. 29,541

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Tel: 650-326-2400
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JMH:bjl
60137398 v1

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	10/757,980	
	Filing Date	January 13, 2004
	First Named Inventor	BRENNEMAN, RODNEY
	Art Unit	Unassigned
	Examiner Name	Unassigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	021496-000410US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Return Postcard 7 Reference Copies PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B
Remarks		The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP James M. Heslin	Reg. No. 29,541
Signature		
Date	February 9, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Edward Masinas		
Signature		Date	February 10, 2004



Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/757,980	
			Filing Date	January 13, 2004	
			First Named Inventor	BRENNEMAN, RODNEY	
			Art Unit	Unassigned	
			Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Sheet	3	of		Attorney Docket Number	021496-000410US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-2002/0120178	08-29-2002	Tartaglia et al.	
	AB	US-2002/0161281	10-31-2002	Jaffe et al.	
	AC	US-5,174,276	12-29-1992	Crockard	
	AD	US-5,251,611	10-12-1993	Zehel et al.	
	AE	US-5,337,733	08-16-1994	Bauerfiend	
	AF	US-5,779,624	07-14-1998	Chang	
	AG	US-6,179,776	01-30-2001	Adams et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
								<input type="checkbox"/>
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								<input type="checkbox"/>

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.